

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PPC:LEI AUDI
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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057431

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE ARA CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE

1. THIS CABLE TRANSMITS THE FULL TEXT OF THE MEMORANDUM I SENT TO THE SECRETARY ON MARCH 3 SUMMARIZING MAJOR CONCLUSIONS OF OUR MEETING. A FULLER REPORT, CONTAINING NOTES ON EACH OF THE INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS, IS NOW IN PREPARATION AND WILL BE SENT TO YOU SHORTLY. SHOULD THERE BE ANY PARTICULAR POINT OMITTED FROM THIS BRIEF SUMMARY BUT WHICH YOU BELIEVE SHOULD BE MADE A PROMINENT PART OF THE CONFERENCE RECORD, PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. TEXT OF MEMORANDUM FOLLOWS:

RESULTS OF THE ARA CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE

THE MEETING YOU OPENED ON FEBRUARY 27 ENDED MARCH 1 IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF OPTIMISM TEMPERED BY CONCERN THAT
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WE SOMETIMES STILL ACT AS THOUGH WE EXPECT TO GET MORE FOR LESS IN THIS HEMISPHERE THAN ELSEWHERE.

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS FOLLOW.

HUMAN RIGHTS

THERE WAS UNANIMITY THAT THE REDEDICATION OF AMERICAN POLICY TO THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS RESTORING US MORAL AUTHORITY. IT IS MAKING THE US POLITICALLY AND INTELLECTUALLY MORE RELEVANT TO THE SHAPING OF A FREER FUTURE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND INFLUENCING LATIN PERSPECTIVES IN MANY FIELDS.

THE NEW EMPHASIS MUST NOT BE PERCEIVED AS A PASSING FAD. CONCRETE IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS ARE REQUIRED -- TO SUPPORT GOOD PERFORMANCE, TO MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE PRESSURES AGAINST POOR PERFORMANCE, AND TO RECOGNIZE CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES.

IN PARTICULAR, THE LACK OF SIGNIFICANT BILATERAL ASSISTANCE FOR "MIDDLE INCOME" COUNTRIES AND THE RIGIDITIES OF ASSISTANCE PLANNING CYCLES ARE BOTH SIGNIFICANT OBSTACLES TO THE POSITIVE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

FINALLY, THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT BASIC HUMAN NEEDS PROGRAMS PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMONSTRATE THAT OUR CONCERNS ARE NOT AN EXCUSE FOR UNRESPONSIVENESS TO DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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1) THAT WE INCREASE THE TIMELY ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO SUPPORT COUNTRIES WITH GOOD RECORDS, AND TO RESPOND DEMONSTRABLY TO COUNTRIES WHERE SUSTAINED PROGRESS OR DRAMATIC MOVES TO ENHANCE CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES TAKE PLACE.

2) THAT WE SIGNAL PUBLICLY OUR SENSITIVITY TO CHANGES IN HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS. IN PARTICULAR, THAT WHEN OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, IMPROVES, WE DEMONSTRATE AS MUCH FLEXIBILITY IN REDUCING SANCTIONS AS IN APPLYING THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE.

3) THAT ANY BASIC HUMAN NEEDS LOANS TO AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENTS WITH PARTICULARLY BAD RECORDS BE ACCOMPANIED BY UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE THAT EXCLUDE ANY APPEARANCE OF SUPPORT FOR THOSE GOVERNMENTS.

SECURITY RELATIONSHIPS

OUR LIMITED ARMS SALES EMPHASIZE OUR COMMITMENT TO ARMS CONTROL AND TO THE AVOIDANCE OF ACQUISITIONS THAT

INCREASE REGIONAL TENSIONS OR DIVERT RESOURCES FROM
DEVELOPMENT. OUR SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL FREEDOMS MAKES
CLEAR OUR OPPOSITION TO MILITARY DICTATORSHIPS.

OUR MILITARY TIES ARE NOW SO CURTAILED, HOWEVER, THAT
WE HAVE FEW MEANS AVAILABLE TO INDUCE LATIN AMERICAN
MILITARY LEADERS AND INSTITUTIONS TO COOPERATE WITH US
IN ACHIEVING THESE OR OTHER GOALS.

WE BELONG TO THE RIO TREATY, BUT

-- INDONESIA ALONE WILL RECEIVE ALMOST AS MUCH FMS
FINANCING IN FY 79 AS ALL THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN COMBINED;
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-- OUR RESPONSES TO INDIVIDUAL MILITARY REQUESTS OF ALL
KINDS ARE SO ERRATIC THAT MOST OF THE CONTINENT'S
INFLUENTIAL MILITARY LEADERS NO LONGER CONSIDER THE
UNITED STATES A RELIABLE ALLY.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) THAT WE DEFINE CLEARLY OUR SECURITY INTERESTS IN
THIS HEMISPHERE.

2) THAT, TO PROMOTE ARMS CONTROL AND HUMAN RIGHTS, AS
WELL AS OUR OWN SECURITY, WE DEVELOP PREDICTABLE AND
MUTUALLY RESTRAINED ARMS TRANSFER POLICIES IN SUPPORT
OF THOSE INTERESTS.

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

THE GREAT INCREASE IN LATIN AMERICAN INTERACTIONS
WITH COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE HEMISPHERE AND WITH EACH
OTHER MEANS THAT THEIR COOPERATION ON MATTERS OF
VITAL CONCERN TO US, FROM DRUGS TO ILLEGAL ALIENS,
DEPENDS INCREASINGLY ON OUR RESPONSIVENESS TO THEM,
PARTICULARLY ON TRADE AND AID ISSUES.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) THAT WE URGENTLY INCREASE FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS TO
REACH "MIDDLE INCOME" COUNTRIES. PRIORITIES SHOULD

INCLUDE:

-- VISIBLE US INVOLVEMENT IN HELPING TO IMPROVE THE
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LOT OF THE POOREST GROUPS;

-- TRAINING AND INFORMATION EXCHANGES;

-- TANGIBLE SUPPORT FOR OUR NEAREST NEIGHBORS IN THE
CARIBBEAN AND MEXICO.

2) THAT WE FIRMLY RESIST PROTECTIONIST TRADE MEASURES
AFFECTING LATIN AMERICAN PRODUCTS, AND GRADUALLY OPEN
OUR MARKET TO ADDITIONAL LATIN AMERICAN EXPORTS.

3) THAT WE TAKE THE LEAD IN A 1978 REPLENISHMENT OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK THAT WILL SUBSTANTIALLY
INCREASE ITS RESOURCES AND MAKE IT A MORE EFFECTIVE
INSTRUMENT FOR MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS AS WELL AS
ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

CONCLUSION

THERE WAS A CONSENSUS THAT ACTION ON THESE RECOMMENDATIONS
WOULD REDUCE THE INHERENT BUT NOW INCREASINGLY DISTURBING
GAP BETWEEN THE EXPECTATIONS WE CREATE AND OUR PERFORMANCE
IN FULFILLING THEM. VANCE

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